

The Wagon Tongue

Newsletter of the California Trail Heritage Alliance



Summer 2022

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Talented and dedicated board members have been key to our success as an organization over the five decades that the Alliance has been in existence. Of course, it was referred to by its legal name - The National Historic California Emigrant Trails Center Foundation.)

Three individuals have recently resigned from the board to pursue other interests or take on new responsibilities. We are grateful for the service of Deane Jones, Chuck Briggs, and Leah Brady. Deane was a charter member of the Foundation and has served in several years as a very able grant writer, advisor and Vice-President. This past year, he co-chaired the Oregon-California Trails Association convention in Elko. Many of our marketing successes and the OCTA convention would not have happened without Deane's involvement and commitment. Chuck Briggs, a retired/history teacher, and a man of wonderful perspective and insight was invaluable as a tour guide during the OCTA convention but has also provided wonderful insights into activities of the Alliance during his term. Leah Brady, who has felt to take on a position with the Elko Band of Western Shoshone tribal council, has been an amazing board member and editor-headed editor of the *Wagon Tongue* for the last several years. She was also a major factor for the success of the OCTA Convention. All of these folks will be missed.

We are fortunate that other capable and talented people have stepped forward to serve on our board. We welcome David Benson, who has taken on the grant writing responsibilities for us, Steve Hofficks, who volunteered to assume the newsletter editor responsibilities, and Kathryn Ataman and Gene Rasmussen. Gene is an archaeologist who works for Fair Women, and Kathy is a retired archaeologist from the BLM. Dave and Steve are professors in the criminal justice and humanities fields, respectively, at Great Basin College. Gene and Kathy bring expertise to our trail mapping efforts as well as trail history in general. We are looking forward to working with these talented and wonderful professionals.

For the first time in three years, the California Trail Interpretive Center hosted Trail Days in mid-June. I participated as a presenter and talked about cooking on the trail, as well as assisted in the Shoshone camp talking about the life of the Western Shoshone at the time the emigrants arrived in this area. Steve Hofficks had the opportunity to meet Trail Center staff and to investigate the many volunteers talking about various aspects of pioneer history. Attendance at the event was good and it was once again time well spent in the education of ourselves and the public who attended.

The long-awaited installation of the interpretive panels at the Elko Hot Hole as well as the placement of the on-Valley-Nevada pole at the site is cause for celebration. See the article in this edition for more details. We appreciate all of the effort put into this pro-